We Claim:

1. A method for detecting kalinin/laminin 5 expression in cells and tissue comprising detecting a signal from the tissue assayed, such signal resulting from specifically hybridizing the tissue with an effective amount of a nucleic acid probe, which probe contains a sense or antisense portion of the kalinin/laminin 5 gamma-2 chain nucleic acid sequence.

2. The method of claim 1 where the nucleic acid probe is DNA.

3. The method of claim 1 where the nucleic acid probe is RNA.

4. The method of claim 1 where the nucleic acid probe is radiolabelled, enzyme labelled, chemiluminescent labelled, avidin or biotin labelled.

5. The method of claim 1 where the nucleic acid probe derived from human kalinin/laminin 5 gamma-2 chain nucleic acid sequence.

6. The method of claim 1 where the nucleic acid probe is incorporated into an extrachromasomal self-replicating vector.

7. The method of claim 1 where the nucleic acid probe is incorporated into a viral vector.

8. The method of claim 1 where the nucleic acid probe is linear.

9. The method of claim 1 where the nucleic acid probe is circularized.

10. The method of claim 1 where the nucleic acid probe contiains modified nucleotides.

11. A method for detecting the presence of invasive cells in tissue comprising detecting a signal from the tissue assayed, such signal resulting from specifically hybridizing the tissue with an effective amount of a nucleic acid probe, which probe contains a sense or antisense portion of kalinin/laminin 5 gamma-2 chain nucleic acid sequence.

12. The method of claim 11 where the nucleic acid probe is DNA.

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13. The method of claim 11 where the nucleic acid probe is RNA.

14. The method of claim 11 where the nucleic acid probe is radiolabelled, enzyme labelled, chemiluminescent labelled, avidin or biotin labelled.

15. The method of claim 11 where the nucleic acid probe derived from human kalinin/laminin 5 gamma-2 chain nucleic acid sequence.

16. The method of claim 11 where the nucleic acid probe is incorporated into an extrachromasomal self-replicating vector.

17. The method of claim 11 where the nucleic acid probe is incorporated into a viral vector.

18. The method of claim 11 where the nucleic acid probe is linear.

19. The method of claim 11 where the nucleic acid probe is circularized.

20. The method of claim 11 where the nucleic acid probe contiains modified nucleotides.

21. A method for monitoring the presence of invasive cells in tissue comprising detecting a signal or absence of signal from the tissue assayed, such signal resulting from specifically hybridizing the tissue with an effective amount of a nucleic acid probe, which probe contains a sense or antisense portion of kalinin/laminin 5 gamma-2 chain nucleic acid sequence.

22. The method of claim 21 where the nucleic acid probe is DNA.

23. The method of claim 21 where the nucleic acid probe is RNA.

24. The method of claim 21 where the nucleic acid probe is radiolabelled, enzyme labelled, chemiluminescent labelled, avidin or biotin labelled.

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25. The method of claim 21 where the nucleic acid probe derived from human kalinin/laminin 5 gamma-2 chain nucleic acid sequence.

26. The method of claim 21 where the nucleic acid probe is incorporated into an extrachromasomal self-replicating vector.

27. The method of claim 21 where the nucleic acid probe is incorporated into a viral vector.

28. The method of claim 21 where the nucleic acid probe is linear.

29. The method of claim 21 where the nucleic acid probe is circularized.

30. The method of claim 21 where the nucleic acid probe contiains modified nucleotides.

31. A method for detecting kalinin/laminin 5 expression in cells and tissue comprising detecting a signal from assayed tissue, such signal resulting from contacting tissue with an effective amount of a labeled probe, which probe contains an antibody immunoreactive with a portion of kalinin/laminin 5 gamma-2 chain protein.

32. A method for detecting invasive cells in tissue comprising detecting a signal from assayed tissue, such signal resulting from contacting tissue with an effective amount of a labeled probe, which probe contains an antibody immunoreactive with a portion of kalinin/laminin 5 gamma-2 chain protein.

33. A method for monitoring invasive cells in malignant tissue comprising detecting a signal from assayed malignant tissue, such signal resulting from contacting tissue with an effective amount of a labeled probe, which probe contains an antibody immunoreactive with a portion of kalinin/laminin 5 gamma-2 chain protein.

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